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for

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July 1983

### The Probe, Issue 34 - July 1983

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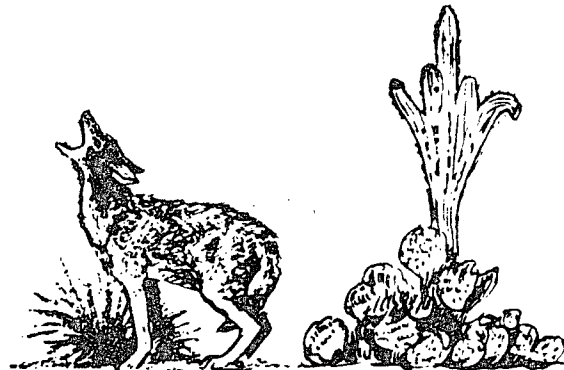
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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 34

July, 1983

### ANIMAL RIGHTS

Had the pleasure of meeting Jim Glass and Rick Story from the WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA (WLFA) at the OUTDOOR WRITERS OF AMERICA ASSOCIATION (OWAA) annual meeting in Wichita, KS, last month. Jim gave a rather scary talk on the increased momentum of the AR movement. He felt what they say is so persuasive that unless you think about it, you might even send in your contribution to this benefit fund for lawyers. What started out as a conglomeration of anti-vivisection, humane, and antihunting groups has unfortunately attracted the attention of lawyers. He quoted Joyce Tischler (PROBE #23), one of the leading legal lights of the AR movement on the west coast, as stating lawyers really don't care about the morals of the issue, but they do care about money. The smell of big bucks acts on lawyers like a burst artery on a school of sharks.

While it sounds fair that animals should have rights, this statement overlooks the fact that rights, even among humans, are allocated and not created equal for all - man or beast: "If a muskrat has the right to roam without being trapped, it is a right taken away from the farmer or the marsh manager to conduct an activity he feels is beneficial. If a dog or monkey has the right not to be experimented upon, it means that the experimentation will have to occur on humans. That is a fact of medical research." The allocation of rights towards animals and away from humans has made striking progress in a few years. The American Bar Association even feels there will be a special section on animal rights and is licking their chops.

The lawyers taking AR cases for nothing (who ever heard of a lawyer doing something for nothing ?!) figure there will be a way to collect a fee later on. As judges are basically lawyers who mark their own examination papers, a high percentage of our legislators are lawyers, and the media gets most of its materials from the troubles lawyers start, we can't afford to pass this over as a fad. Agriculture, industry, and medicine are all in the same boat with the sportsmen and us ADC types. Thus we must combine our efforts to minimize the impact of this movement before it gets out of hand and we all become vegetarians and elect a parakeet for President.

**Beim' of sound mind, I'm spendin' every darned cent before I die !**

### **NEW BOOK ON THE BLOCK**

Bob Timm (University of Nebraska) has just announced the coming availability of the handbook **PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE**, hopefully by the time of the Cornell conference. The handbook will be in a heavy-duty, 3-ring binder to permit updating and easy removal for photocopying. It emphasizes prevention of and an integrated approach to animal damage control. All vertebrate species that come in conflict with man in the central USA are considered. The work of more than 35 experts it should be the standard current text for ADC. While the book will cost \$20, Bob is offering a 20% discount for orders postmarked before 1 September 1983. Write to Wildlife Damage Handbook, 202 Natural Resources Hall, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0819.

**The guy who usta hoard money was called a miser - now he's a wizard.**

### **PUT UP OR SHUT UP, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE**

Tom Nicholls reports that Sara Polenick of the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE (DW) has got a new banner to wave. She is asking for Federal funding for studies on guard dogs and taste aversion chemicals. As the effort now stands, the Oregon Ways and Means Committee has agreed to support a fund of \$212,400 for a 3 year study if the DW will put up 1/3, Oregon Woolgrowers 1/3, and the State Department of Agriculture the rest. In view of their past record, it seems very unlikely that DW will ever be able to divert that much money from salaries for an objective research project.

It was interesting to read in the DW "Action Alert" how willingly these people are to spend taxpayers' money (not their own tax-free dole). They want \$2 million over the budget for listing of more endangered species, \$4 million for state grants on endangered species, \$1 million for endangered species law enforcement activities, \$55.37 million for Land & Water Conservation Fund, and the \$212,400 for the guard dog/taste aversion studies. S.O.Bs!!!! (Save Our Budgets - what did you think it meant?). As Sara says - "As an informed activist, your correspondence can be very effective." Oregon Congressman AuCoin belongs to the DW so work on the others.

**The people who don't know their own minds, ain't missing much.**

### **WHY DO I WORK FOR ADC ?**

"Any \$100-an-hour psychiatrist could probably explain this problem to me, in 13-14 sessions, but I don't have time for that. No doubt it is some deep-seated personality defect, or maybe a kink in whatever blood vessel leads into the pineal gland...On the other hand, it might easily be as simple and basically perverse as whatever instinct it is that causes a jackrabbit to wait until the last possible second to dart across the road in front of a speeding car.

People who claim to know jackrabbits will tell you they are primarily

motivated by Fear, Stupidity, and Craziness. But I have spent enough time in jackrabbit country to know that most of them lead pretty dull lives- eat, sleep, have sex, hop around a bush now and then - No wonder some of them drift over the line into cheap thrills once in a while. There has to be a powerful adrenalin rush in crouching by the side of the road, waiting for the next set of headlights, then streaking out of the bushes in split-second timing, and making it across just inches in front of the speeding front wheels.

Why not ? Anything that gets the adrenalin moving like a 440-volt blast in a copper bathtub is good for the reflexes and keeps the veins free of cholesterol, but too many adrenalin rushes in any given time-span has the same bad effect on the nervous system as too many electro-shock treatments are said to have on the brain !! After a while you start burning out the circuits.

When a jackrabbit gets addicted to roadrunning, it is only a matter of time before he gets smashed - and when the average young man turns into an ADC junkie he will sooner or later start raving and babbling about camels and things that only a person who has been there can possibly understand". Thanx to GREG ROST.

**Those with no hernias ain't carryin' a share of the load.**

#### **DEAR DAMAGE**

The 7 million plus people in Chicago and environs are faced with an equal rise in the deer population. It seems that when Bambi is not being slaughtered by hunters he starts getting in the way of cars and eats up gardens and orchards, a character defect that would never show up in a Disney movie. While the manager of Illinois Department of Conservation's forest wildlife program, Forrest Loomis, feels that the practical, humane way to minimizing the problem is by hunting, he states: "The protectionists play on urban populations because there are large numbers there who are easy to organize. Most have never had any direct relationship with any wildlife species and they don't know the basics of management and peculiarities of the species." He points out the protectionist answer - relocation - has had numerable case history failures, "You can't just uproot something. It's like taking you and putting you in the middle of the Sahara Desert and expecting you to survive."

**Men can be divided into 3 classes: handsome, intellectual, and the majority.**

#### **GOODBYE JOEY**

Had some comments from our members 'downunder'(PROBE #33). Des Gooding (Western Australia) said it was all too true. The answer given to faking the cruelty by the movie company was: "Staged or not the cruelty did take place and it was done by licensed kangaroo shooters." Des says that the film has never been released on TV or in the theatres in Australia. It was especially made for the U.S.A. market. It was done not to expose cruelty in the industry but with the object of selling it for a big fat fee.

Reports from other understandably irritated Australians include, "It would be great if 'the Americans' would leave us to work out our own problems with the harvesting of kangaroos. It is not very helpful for some of them to be declaiming continually that kangaroos are becoming extinct - nor is it anywhere near the truth as there are currently more kangaroos than humans in Australia."

YE ED also received a bundle of newspaper clippings from Australia indicating they were mighty upset about the film and the possible repercussions resulting in more interference from the U.S. Congress in treating 'roos as endangered species. A 'Doctor of Philosophy' is quoted as questioning the use of "harvesting" and "culling" as applied to the kangaroo population, while showing no appreciation of the problem of competition and destruction caused agriculture by the animals or the fact they are renewable resources. He also feels that spot-lighting while hunting a nocturnal animal is in itself an act of cruelty. I guess they should slip up on them sleeping in the daytime and hug them to death.

Incidentally, the Mrs. Newman mentioned previously who lied like hell turns out to be a U.S. "conservationist". Why do we have to keep exporting 'ugly Americans' ? The film was on NBC television apparently sometime in April but YE ED missed it.

**It's only after you're on the sea of matrimony that you find yer 2nd mate.**

#### **SORRY, TOM**

Tom Krause writes that he only received 4 responses from NADCA members to his questionnaire (PROBE #29) regarding 1080. The sample size was too small to be of any significance, but all respondents felt 1080 was a most selective predicide, its usage could be controlled, and there was little danger to non-target species. As Howdy pointed out (PROBE #31) even an Aggie would know the right answers to those questions.

**If the cost of living goes up anymore, we may have to look for alternatives.**

#### **IT'S A MAD, MAD WORLD**

There has been a dramatic increase in rabies in the East. Pennsylvania reports a 520% increase (73 cases) in 1982 over 1981 (14 cases). A commonly reported symptom in raccoons has been a sick animal with lameness or weakness in the hind legs. Several raccoons have followed dogs and humans. Several skunks have attacked dogs chained to their dog houses. One woodchuck chased a dog and man to their pickup and then chewed on the truck's tires.

A farmer found a bat on his cow's neck about two months before rabies symptoms appeared. The vet told him to take the bat to the lab but he was too busy. When the symptoms appeared, he remembered the incident. This resulted in 38 people (most from the vet medical center) having to take shots. A wild skunk captured and kept in a cage for 2 years,

exhibited CNS symptoms and died. Tests showed it positive for rabies. A man stuck his hand in a chimney where a female raccoon and 3 kits had taken up housekeeping. He got bit and the mother escaped. The 3 young ones (eyes were not open) were positive for rabies. Four bats from a colony with a sudden die-off were positive for rabies. - Thanx to WYOMING BULL SHEET

**Breathe through your nose or at least keep your mouth shut.**

#### **WHAT YOUR BOSS REALLY THINKS OF YOU**

Personnel people have their own code to prevent employees from knowing what their status really is. Here's an attempt to break that code (Personnel Journal):

"Exceptionally well-qualified"	Made no serious blunders yet
"Careful thinker"	Won't make a decision
"Strong principles"	Stubborn
"Spends extra hours on job"	Miserable home life
"Average employee"	Not too bright
"Active socially"	Drinks too much
"Zealous attitude"	Opinionated
"Takes pride in his work"	Conceited
"Uses logic on hard problems"	Finds another to do the job
"Forceful"	Argumentative
"Not the desk type"	Did not go to college
"Conscientious"	Scared
"Meticulous attention to detail"	Nit-picker
"Of great value to organization"	Gets to work on time
"Has leadership qualities"	Is tall or has a loud voice

**Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.**

#### **1080**

According to a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service memorandum this is the current status on Compound 1080:

1. The revocation of the Experimental Use Permit (EUP) caused by alleged technical violations of the permit will be allowed to stand unchallenged (Man, does this outfit have guts !???). A new EUP application to EPA will be made responding to stand by Humane Society by June 15 and expect to resume field trials by fall of 1983 (dreamers!).

2. EPA has 'promised' to take action on our request for extension of EUP on the toxic collar.

3. EPA has advised us not to expect further communication on our application for registration of 1080-toxic collar until the Administrator has issued an opinion on the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge on the 1080 hearings (don't hold your breath).

**It's not who you know that matters - it's how your wife found out.**

**MOBILIZATION FOR ANIMALS**

Walt Boehm sent me a flyer from this outfit, MFA. It can't be all bad as they list Brigitte Bardot as 'honorary president'. Good choice as she doesn't wear furs or much of anything else. They claim to be a coalition of protectionists where every penny goes to furthering animal rights. Will check them out on this.

They list some dates, I'm sure you want to put on your calendar: April 17, 1984 - Trapping & Mass Extermination; April 24, 1984 - Primate Centers Project; and August 25, 1984 - Psychology Experiments. Look for the 'mass' rallies on that first one at USFWS offices in D.C., Chicago, & LA. Did you realize that the "...government engages in mass destruction of animals by poison, trapping, aerial shooting, neck snares, and denning (a monstrous process of burning infant young alive or cutting them apart with barbed-wire 'snakes' in their dens.) ...The only beneficiaries of trapping and mass extermination programs are the fur industry and 'wildlife management' bureaucrats."?

**Most knocking is done by folks who can't ring the bell.**

**THIS CAT MUSTA HAD AN UNHAPPY CHILDHOOD**

An 80-year old woman peaceably working in her backyard in Hayward, CA was attacked by an 11 pound tomcat. When the neighbors attracted by her screams rushed to her rescue they found her gushing blood from deep claw and fang wounds. Rushed to the hospital, she required 54 stitches to close the wounds. Fearing rabies the doctors started her on injections.

The animal was soon caught and sent to the lab where it proved negative for rabies. Incredibly, public concern was more for the safety of the cat than the well-being of the poor woman who nearly died. The Animal Control Department received 350 telephone calls from people urging the cat not be killed. Many calls were peppered with profanities comparing the animal control officers with the Gestapo. Makes me feel more and more like Greg Rost's jackrabbit. -THE TRAPPER, June, 1983.

**Early to bed, early to rise - and your gal goes out with other guys.**

**BAMBI IS A JAY WALKER**

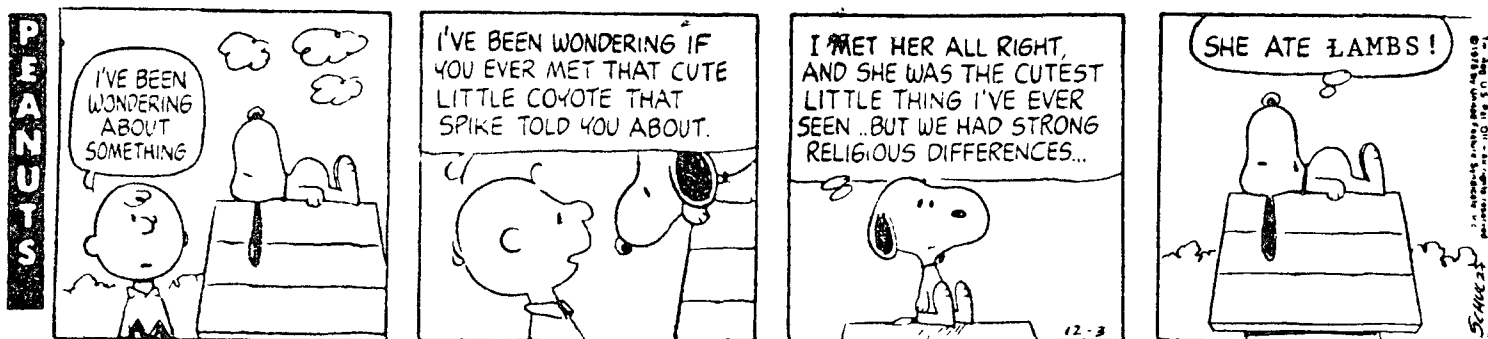
Chicago is not the only one experiencing problems with suburban Bambis. Princeton Township, NJ effectively banned hunting in 1972 by passing an ordinance forbidding the discharge of firearms within the corporate limits. Since then deer numbers have increased and deer-car collisions have gone up 342%. Police state there were 33 deer-car collisions in 1972 when the ordinance was passed. By 1976 the number had risen to 81 and in 1981 to 113. As there had never been a reported injury due to deer hunting, it looks like hunters have a better safety record than the deer. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NEWS, 5/20/83.

**If at first you don't succeed - do it the way she told you.**

**URBAN COYOTES ARE SOMETHING ELSE**

Southern California has created an excellent environment for interaction between humans and the coyote. Plentiful and available garbage, pet foods, and water have been irresistible to coyotes. Since 1975 there have been 8 encounters in Los Angeles County leading up to the death of 3-year old Kelly Keen in 1981 (PROBE #16). These were mostly little children who were saved by the intervention of an adult, but several adults were also bitten.

Since Kelly Keen's death, the county has stepped up a control program along with education for the public on coping with the urban coyote. The program has also made the county safer for pets which were common prey. A study of urban coyote food habits held no surprises as the coyote will eat anything available: Lagomorphs (14.4%), chicken (8.3%), other birds (7.6%), pocket gophers (6.8%), cats (2.3%), ground squirrels (1.5%), and other mammals (3.9%). UNIV. CALIF.-DAVIS, PRO & CON, #144.



Thanx to THE TEXAS TRAPLINE

**DO THEY OR DON'T THEY ?**

Terry Salmon writes about the socalled 'gopher plant' ( Euphorbia lathyris ) in PRO AND CON #144. He reports nothing published on the reported repellency of these plants for moles or gophers. In extension work in the State, he found some have planted this species and subsequently had no gopher problems, but that most found these plants to be completely ineffective. Despite the toxic qualities of the plant's sap, several found gophers feeding on them.



Thanx to Guy Connolly



**MEMBERSHIP**

Got ambitious and tried to find out how the membership was divided up - geographically and professionally. The numbers don't jib between the two but that's because several were listed in two places and I counted wives as 'active' but didn't list them in the occupations, sexist that I am (like to hear from you, Krisjon, but before you write, you, Avis, and Sally were listed in the categories):

TABLE No. 1 - Geographic Distribution of Membership

Region	Active	Non-USA	Sponsor	Patron	Student	Honorary	Total
1. Coast	73	0	10	2	2	1	86
2. S.West	60	0	12	2	0	0	74
3. Mount.	47	0	9	0	0	0	56
4. S.Cent.	87	0	13	3	2	1	106
5. N.Cent.	30	0	5	1	1	1	38
6. S.East	34	0	6	0	0	0	40
7. N.East	13	0	1	0	1	0	15
Out of USA	1	6	0	0	0	0	7
	345	6	56	6	6	3	422

TABLE No. 2 - Professional Distribution of Membership

Region	Coop.	USFWS	Govt.	PCO	Supp.	State	Private	Univ.	Retired
1. Coast	5	51	2	4	0	10	3	5	19
2. S.West	12	39	6	0	0	1	0	2	10
3. Mount.	7	38	1	0	0	2	2	0	17
4. S.Cent.	13	71	1	2	4	0	2	5	12
5. N.Cent.	1	15	0	5	4	1	4	7	5
6. S.East	2	22	6	0	0	3	2	2	6
7. N.East	0	4	1	0	2	2	0	2	1
Out of USA	0	1	2	1	0	3	0	0	0
	40	241	19	12	10	22	13	23	70

Table No. 1 above is self-explanatory. Our membership is pretty much concentrated west of the Mississippi. We would certainly like to be more balanced, but unless we can find a way to interest more pest control operators, we have a larger audience in the West.

An explanation of the column headings in Table No. 2 is: "Coop." is cooperators like ranchers and farmers who have a personal interest in effective ADC. This is 10% of the membership, the second biggest category. "USFWS" is for those members who are working for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or have spent a portion of their careers with that organization. Understandably these make up 63% of the membership and explains why so much space in the PROBE is for this group. "Govt." is other government agencies like USDA and EPA. "PCO" is the pest control operator. "Supp." is the commercial firms that supply ADC chemicals and devices. Though only 2% they have been very supportive

financially and we would like to give them more recognition. "State" includes those working with state agencies involved with ADC such as the County Agricultural Commissioners in California and State Fish & Game people. "Private" is trappers and those doing ADC consulting. There is a rather fine line separating this group from the PCOs. "Univ." are the students and wildlife extension personnel at various Universities. "Retired" includes ADC personnel, State and Federal, who are not fully employed in ADC anymore. The fact this disproportionate 17% of the membership has nothing to gain personally indicates there are a number of Greg Rost's jackrabbits still racing the wheels. If we had as good support from those with everything to gain from NADCA, we would be a much bigger outfit.

**The good die young - with current morality standards, it's probably due to shock.**

### **GOD'S DOGS**

We even have playwrights against us now. A play by that name is being staged in St. Paul (MN). It sounds very imaginative and will undoubtedly arouse more urban indignation against ADC. Five actors portray coyotes who get killed off by 1080, runover by a drunken sheep herder in a dune buggy, blasted by hunters from a helicopter, etc. The one real tear jerker is the one caught in a leghold trap. She says, "I'm not in excessive pain. If I'm lucky, the bastard will come along soon and kill me." A bespectacled, suit clad fellow with a clipboard (combination trapper and bureaucrat) explains the advantages of 1080 (I'd like to hear this); a 'raw-boned sheep farmer' recognizes a kinship with coyotes but blames the banker who is squeezing his throat; lab technicians dissect a road killed coyote to raise the issue of animal experimentation - if they had only thrown in a lawyer or two we could all hiss at the villains. - Thanx to Wes Jones

**The easiest way to get your wife's attention is to look comfortable.**

### **ROWDY HOWDY**

Dr. Walter E. Howard (Univ. Calif.-Davis) as mentioned previously (PROBE #33) has been raising hell with EPA trying to get approval for the past two years to use less than 0.18 oz. of 1080 over an 18-month period in a field experiment. It is nauseating to read the brushoff he gets from Ed Johnson whose mind has been made up and doesn't want to be confused with the facts. The latest exchange involved comments received concerning the announcement in the Federal Register, March 1982. Under the freedom of information act, they sent two letters. One from a Mr. & Mrs. Robinson (expertise unknown) with emotional appeal for rejection of the experimental permit. The other from Henry Voss (Calif. Farm Bureau President) with factual support for approving the application. The correspondence is much too long and boring but I would like to reprint the following statement by Howdy on another subject.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES BIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DAVIS, CA 95616

June 7, 1983

TO: Whom It May Concern

SUBJECT: Transfer of Animal Control  
From USDI to USDA

The "Predatory and Other Wild Animal Act of 1931" placed the responsibility of animal control in USDA. In 1939 this function was transferred to USDI. Since I think this is the cause for much of the animal control conflict that exists today, as a highly concerned resource person I strongly recommend that Interior's Animal Damage Control (ADC) be transferred to APHIS of USDA and its Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC) be transferred to ARS of USDA. The Land-Grant universities of the nation could then become more active in this field through their USDA contacts.

There is no way that Interior can create the needed extension activity concerning animal control. Why not use the already existing and very effective USDA Cooperative Extension Service?

Wildlife managers have not been willing to assume the responsibility for regulating many wildlife species, such as mice and rats, pocket gophers, ground squirrels, coyotes, feral pigeons, and starlings. The evidence indicates that wildlife managers are primarily interested in game species and the more lucrative endangered species.

Wildlife are "managed" to improve their welfare, including preventing them from getting into conflict with people, but wildlife are "controlled" either to protect other species, resources, for public health reasons, or because someone currently views them as a pest.

It is not easy to train someone to be both a wildlife manager and animal control expert, but I do find it easier to teach wildlife management principles to someone who is control oriented than to teach wildlifers animal control principles.

Unfortunately, very few people have been trained in animal control, e.g., today there are only about seven animal control extension specialists in all of the U.S. The USDA has a much better chance of initiating the badly needed strong research-educational programs through Land-Grant universities than does Interior.

Wildlife management has largely been based on a "use syndrome," such as hunting, fishing, trapping and recreation, whereas control is more a consequence of health, economic survival and quality of living.

June 7, 1983

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Those who believe that the prevention or control of animal depredations cannot be divorced from wildlife management ignore the political value in our system of the separation of functions when it creates a healthier system of checks and balances (USDI - wildlife management; USDA - animal control). Since 1939 there has been too much in-house fighting between Interior's ADC and DWRC personnel with their administrators in Washington, and it is high time that these two action and research functions be given both philosophical and constructive support.

Why not integrate animal control with those concepts already developed in insect and weed control in USDA?

I do not agree with the philosophy of many wildlife managers who believe that all predator, rodent and bird problems should be the sole responsibility of landowners. I believe it is highly desirable that various levels of government provide leadership so that the most environmentally desirable control methods will be both properly researched and used.

It has been clearly demonstrated academically that no agricultural crop could remain economically successful if native mammals were not controlled, in fact these animals would also destroy most home landscaping since it consists of plants that did not co-evolve with and evolve resistance to these mammals.

It is important to note that the role of animal control is to prevent pest problems from occurring, and this can often be accomplished without destroying any offending animals or populations of wildlife.

Perhaps the main reason many people favor retaining the animal control functions in Interior is because it has been demonstrated that the environmental lobby can "control" Interior in this area, whereas they can only participate in the management of this subject in Agriculture.

Sincerely,



Walter E. Howard  
Professor and  
Vertebrate Ecologist

WEH:kap

(over)

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

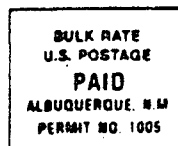
YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

No issue would be complete without the usual plaintive plea for more support for information. I know Keith Carpenter and Ray Piggott were supposed to retire, but I would appreciate getting details from their supervisors. You guys got secretaries to do your dirty work. Please keep me posted on developments of interest to the profession.

**National  
Animal  
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Association**



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